

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS DON KNABE AND
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

FEBRUARY 6, 2007

The idea of a strong Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) is neither new nor unique. A strong CAO or CEO runs the day-to-day operations of a majority of counties in California and has the requisite authority to hire and fire department heads, as well as other executive and administrative duties. This provides a clear and efficient chain of command and accountability.

The County of Los Angeles is a large government, with nearly 100,000 employees and a multi-billion dollar budget. To be at its most effective and efficient, department heads should be held accountable to a single person, the CAO; and in turn, the Board of Supervisors should hold a single person accountable for the day-to-day operations of the County.

In its role as the governing body of the County, the Board of Supervisors has sweeping and far reaching responsibilities. It is, therefore, appropriate to give the CAO the authority to oversee the day-to day operations of County government through a clear chain of command. In order to permanently accomplish this, an amendment to the County Charter must be approved by County voters.

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MOTION

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the County Counsel in conjunction with the CAO and the Board of Supervisors be instructed to draft a Charter amendment for placement on the June 2008 ballot that would:

1. Permanently transfer to the CAO the authority for the hiring, removal and discipline of County department heads with the exception of the CAO, the County Counsel, the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors, and the Auditor-Controller;
2. Establish that all non-elected department heads with the exception of the CAO, the County Counsel, the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors, and the Auditor Controller, will report to the Chief Administrative Officer;
3. Establish a non-interference clause; and
4. Change the name of the position of "Chief Administrative Officer" to "Chief Executive Officer."

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